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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Fortifications and Frontier Installations on the
Rumanian Side of the Danube Facing Yugoslavia and
Bulgaria

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Fortifications

2. "Fortifications are under construction at various points on Rumanian territory, across from Yugoslavia. Large quantities of material were being unloaded on the banks of the river on the Rumanian frontier between Razias and Orsova, at Drencova, [sic], Lupcova, and Ogradena. The material consisted of cement, iron bars, stone, granite and basalt blocks. Camouflage curtains of tightly braided branches can be seen at these points and elsewhere. These curtains are 3-4 meters tall and of various lengths ranging from 10-20 meters and more, which conceal the work carried on behind them. Local people confirm currently [Sept 53] that fortifications are being constructed.
3. "The oval shaped island of Ostrovul-Mare, located in the center of the Danube, below Turnu-Severin, and which belongs to Rumania, has also been surrounded by fortifications. The major part of the village in that section of the island, also called Ostrovul-Mare, is concealed from view from the Yugoslav side by such camouflage curtains. Not even boats sailing nearby on the Danube can detect what is going on behind these curtains.
4. "Foundations have been constructed for heavy guns and machine guns at all these points. There are dozens of them. After completion of the work, the camouflage curtains will be removed and the fortifications will be concealed by other devices.
5. "This fortification activity was carried on during May and June, and all through the summer [1953]. No such work was noticed on the Rumanian side facing Bulgaria. There are only normal frontier guard installations

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on the Rumanian side facing Bulgaria. Some wooden watch towers have been erected at some points in recent years, subsequent to 1945.

Frontier Guards and Installations

6. "Barbed wire fences have been erected at all points on the Rumanian banks of the Danube facing Yugoslavia where the river can be reached. These fences are sometimes several kilometers long, 1.50-2 meters high. The wire rows are 10 centimeters apart, but thoroughly knitted. At some points, these barbed wire fences have gates, giving access to the river. These gates are always near a watch tower. Frontier guards in teams of two and three, patrol the neighborhood. There are no barbed wire fences at rocky points overlapping the water, but there are barracks for frontier guards, wooden huts, or at least weather shelters, where frontier guards can be seen. These installations cover every meter of road running along the Danube banks.
7. "The soldiers guarding these frontiers possess flare rockets. On a slightly foggy day two Rumanian soldiers lighting two flare rockets. They might have wanted to light the semidarkness or possibly give some code signals. Perhaps they suspected clandestine traffic on the Danube. They also have well-trained bloodhounds. 50X1-HUM
8. "No such installations and preparations were noticed on the Yugoslav side, however. It has the same topographical characteristics as the Rumanian side." 50X1-HUM

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